

I am greatly troubled by the trend towards ever greater consolidation of electronic and printed media. There is no clearer example of the dangers of this consolidation than Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force an airing of an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. The idea that a media company can push the political opinions of its management onto unwilling local stations and their viewers is nothing short of appalling.

Sinclair uses a public resource - the radio spectrum - free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Community-oriented programming and substantive news commentary have always been integral parts of this public interest. Conversely, attempts to destabilize democracies have historically begun with an assaults on the media. While the assaults have typically been led by government, in the Sinclair action we seen the emergence of a corporate propaganda machine. Clearly, we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. I will personally be campaigning for stricter policies for license renewal. I trust that the FCC, as the representative of the people, will also work in the interests of the overall public and not allow overt corporate interference in the political process.

Thank you,

Peter Sorger